

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-08 L-03 HEW-04 EPA-01
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /069 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/M X:TRMART N:JM
APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:DESIMCOX
OES/ENP/EN - HSPIELMAN
US-IBWC - J.F.FRIEDKIN(SUB)
-----096764 071510Z /41

R 071449Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, SENV, US, MX

SUBJECT: SANITATION PROBLEM AT NOGALES, SONORA

REF: MEXICO 7733

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT TO FONSEC NOTE ESSENTIALLY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES.
2. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO A SANITATION PROBLEM AND HEALTH HAZARD CAUSED BY THE CONTINUED FLOW OF SEWAGE ON THE SURFACE FROM THE CITY OF NOGALES, SONORA, INTO THE CITY OF NOGALES, ARIZONA.
3. SUCH SURFACE FLOWS HAVE OCCURRED ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS. THE MOST RECENT OCCUR-

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RENCE HAS PERSISTED SINCE OCTOBER, 1977. THUS, ALTHOUGH THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION CONSTRUCTED IN 1951 AN INTERNATIONAL PLANT FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE FROM THESE ADJOINING COMMUNITIES AND ENLARGED IT IN 1970 SO THAT ITS CAPACITY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT UNTIL 1996, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT OBTAINING THE SATISFACTORY SANITATION OPERATION THERE THAT THEY EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE. THE

REASONS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS OF A JOINT COMMISSION INSPECTION, ARE THAT THE CITY OF NOGALES, SONORA, HAS NOT CLEANED SEWERS CLOGGED BY SANDS DURING HEAVY RAINS IN OCTOBER, 1977, AND HAS NOT REHABILITATED ITS COLLECTION SYSTEM TO CONVEY ALL THE CITY'S WASTE WATERS TO THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT. AS A CONSEQUENCE, UNTREATED SEWAGE ORIGINATING IN NOGALES, SONORA, HAS BEEN FLOWING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS ON THE SURFACE INTO THE UNITED STATES AND PASSING THROUGH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTIONS OF THE CITY OF NOGALES, ARIZONA.

4. DURING THE MEETING IN MAY OF THE SOCIAL WORKING GROUP OF THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM IT WAS OBSERVED BY OFFICIALS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION HAD DONE EXCELLENT WORK AND MERITED THE CONTINUED CLOSE SUPPORT OF THE TWO FOREIGN OFFICES TO ENSURE THE NEEDED COOPERATION OF THE CONCERNED DOMESTIC AGENCIES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. WITH THIS IN MIND, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRIORITY CONCERN THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE GIVEN TO BORDER SANITATION PROBLEMS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOPES THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS WILL SEEK THE REMEDIAL ACTION BY APPROPRIATE DOMESTIC AGENCIES THAT THE COMMISSION HAS FOUND IN ITS JOINT INSPECTIONS TO BE NECESSARY TO CORRECT AND PREVENT RECURRANCE OF THE PROBLEM AT NOGALES, SONORA. END TEXT.

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5. PLEASE CONFIRM DATE OF DELIVERY AND POUCH COPY OF NOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SANITATION, SEWAGE SYSTEM, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE143849
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRMART N:JM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-1208
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780685/aaaacvq.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0bdfcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MEXICO 7733
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2451938
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SANITATION PROBLEM AT NOGALES, SONORA
TAGS: PBOR, SENV, PDIP, US, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0bdfcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014